

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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EA:RBARNES

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-----107456 112338Z /63

P 112124Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: APPROACHES TO  
COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM

1. SUMMARY. US ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REFUGEE PAROLE  
ANNOUNCEMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH  
SEEKING CONTINUED AND INCREASED GOM HOSPITALITY FOR  
REFUGEES. REPORT REQUIRED PRIOR AUGUST 18. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUGUST 11 MADE A DETERMINATION  
TO PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE,  
INCLUDING 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HIS DETERMINATION  
SHOULD LIGHTEN REFUGEE PRESSURES IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST  
ASYLUM. IT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED APPEAL TO  
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EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

3. THE PRESIDENT, KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE PRESS, AND  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE  
PLIGHT OF THE BOAT CASE REFUGEES. ACCOUNTS OF EXTENSIVE  
SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE REACHED A CRESCENDO IN JUNE  
AND JULY. THEY CENTERED ON SHIPS AT SEA THAT PASSED UP

REFUGEES IN DISTRESS, AND ON COUNTRIES AROUND THE PERIPHERY OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT FORCED BOATS BACK OFFSHORE, OR REFUSED TO ALLOW TO DEBARK IN THEIR PORTS THOSE REFUGEES THAT SHIPS HAD ALREADY RESCUED. THERE IS MUCH MORE

DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE THAN DURING THE 1976 REQUEST FOR THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM.

4. SOME COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION ARE CONTINUING OR EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS. FRANCE HAS AVERAGED ABOUT 1000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PER MONTH SINCE MAY 1975. AUSTRALIA HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A REFUGEE OFFICE IN BANGKOK. AUSTRALIA, IN ADDITION TO THE SOME 3000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN, PLANS TO ADMIT 150 PER MONTH FOR AT LEAST A YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1977. NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY ACCEPT UP TO 70 FAMILIES, OR SOME 420 INDIVIDUALS. CANADA, WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SOME 7000, RECENTLY INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 450 MORE. THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS ABOUT 146,000 IN COUNTRY, WILL TAKE 8000 FROM THAI CAMPS, IN ADDITION TO 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AMBASSADOR SHOULD INFORM GOM AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE NEW US PAROLE PROGRAM WHICH REFLECTS IN PART OUR SPECIFIC RECOGNITION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS POSED FOR MALAYSIA BY REFUGEES. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS PROGRAM (AND THE CONTINUING OR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED EFFORTS BY CANADA, AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, NEW ZEALAND AND FRANCE, AS WELL AS EFFORTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHO MAY FOLLOW US LEAD) WILL EASE SOME OF THE REFUGEE PRESSURE FACED BY THE GOM. YOU MAY CERTAINLY ADD USG APPRECIATION FOR THE HUMANITARIAN APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES AND NOTE, AT YOUR DISCRETION, THAT THIS ATTITUDE NOW APPEARS TO BE INCREASINGLY SHARED AT LOWER ECHELONS AS PER REFTEL A. YOU SHOULD INDICATE IN APPROPRIATE MANNER OUR HOPE THAT GOM WILL BE ABLE TO EXTEND ITS TRADITIONALLY HOSPITABLE WELCOME TO REFUGEES NOW THAT THERE IS AGAIN REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL MOVE OUT FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS BY AUGUST 18.

6. SIMILAR APPROACHES ARE BEING MADE BY USG TO OTHER FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES AND CONCURRENT DEMARCHES REQUESTED OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE AND NEW ZEALAND. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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